Centre for Advanced Studies of India in USA

304. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre for Advanced Studies of India has been established in the University of Pennsylvania in USA;

(b) how much finance has been given by the External Affairs Ministry for this purpose; and

(c) what are the details of the organisation and functions of this centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Centre was inaugurated in June, 1992.

(b) The Ministry of External Affairs made an initial contribution of US $50,000. In addition, an amount of Rs. 200,000 has been contributed annually since FY 1992-93.

(c) The Centre is the first Research Institution at a major American University to focus on contemporary India. The centre has received a planning grant from the Ford Foundation (New York) and a project grant from the Ford Foundation (New Delhi) for its collaborative work.

The Centre's faculty is drawn from various disciplines at the Pennsylvania University including Arts, Sciences, Business Administration, Engineering, Applied Sciences, Communications etc. The Centre is presently working on 11 proposals to develop collaborative research programmes with important centres nd institutes in India on areas of common interest.

Misuse of Local Calls in Metropolitan Cities

305. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the misuse of local calls have increased in the past few months in Delhi and other metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, whether the MTNL propose to introduce dynamic looking facility for local calls also on the pattern of dynamic looking facility on STD calls; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The facility of dyi looking of local calls is already aval to all customers of digital electronic exchanges who have STD facility on their telephones.

Deap-sea Fishing Policy

306. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:
SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given licences to multinational companies for fishing in the coastal areas of West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Gujarat;

(b) if so, the names of the companies and other relevant details as on the 31st July, 1995, State-wise;

(c) whether the Raview Committee appointed by Government for in-depth study of the situation arising out of Deep-Sea Fishing Policy has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Review Committee has been engaged in obtaining information from various sources, including the State Governments.

American Pressure on India to SIGN NPT

307. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen press, reports highlighting renewed American pressure on India to sign NPT?

(b) if so, what diplomatic efforts have been made in cooperation with the members of NAM in general and SAARC in particular to evolve common policy on NPT?

(c) whether any diplomatic initiatives with the permanent members of the security council have been taken in this regard so far?

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether government have taken China into confidence on this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) India's consistant and principled position on the NPT is that it will not sign the NPT since it is a discriminatory treaty which creates a permanent division between the nuclear "haves" and "have-nots". India has reiterated this well known position in all relevant multilateral fora and during bilateral discussions with various countries including those which are permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Set Back in INDO-US Relations

308. SHRIMATI CHANDRA-KALA PANDEY:
SHRI MD. SALIM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-US relations have suffered any major set back recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Statement by Former Prime Minister of Quebec

309. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement by the former Prime Minister of Quebec that the recent referendum on the proposal for the independence of the province has been affected by votes cast by ethnic minorities;'

(b) whether such a statement has created considerable apprehension in the minds of Indians settled in Canada; and

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with the Canadian authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. Government do not consider it necessary to do so as the Government of Canada does not suport the statement. In fact, the statement of the former Premier of Quebec, Jacques Parizeau has been condemned by the Prime Minister of Canada, himself a Quebecker, and by other Provincial Premiers. The present Premier of